

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 EUR-25 AF-10 OIC-04

ACDA-19 ORM-03 SR-02 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 079431

O 221315Z DEC 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4820

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4183

GENEVA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG OCON XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 6739

1. CAIRO PRESS PORTRAYED OPENING OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AS DISPUTE AND CRISIS RIDDEN. AHBAR EL YOM BANNER HEADLINE READ "GENEVA CONFERENCE CRISES BEGIN". AL-AHRAM'S BANNER HEADLINE STATED "CONFERENCE OPENED AMIDST COLLECTIVE WARNINGS OF RENEWED FIGHTING FROM ALL SIDES".

2. FRONT-PAGE SOTIRES IN THREE MAJOR DAILIES GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED ABBA EBAN'S OPENING SPEECH AS RECALCITRANT RATHER THAN "CONSTRUCTIVE AND FOR MOST PART FORWARD-LOOKING" AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL. EBAN'S ELOQUENT AND CONCILITORY REMARKS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL WERE LOST IN TRANSLATION OR UNREPORTED. EBAN'S SPEECH WAS REDUCED TO THREE MAJOR POINTS: (A) ISRAEL WILL NOT GO BACK TO PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS (2) ISRAEL WILL NOT GIVE JERUSALEM BACK TO ARABS: CONFIDENTIAL

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AND (3) ISRAEL IS OPPOSED TO PALESTINIAN STATE. THERE

WAS NO COVERAGE OF EBAN'S REMARKS ABOUT ISRAEL SEEKING TO LEARN FROM ARABS AT GENEVA WHETHER THEY SHARE ITS VISION OF PEACE.

3. THIS CHARACTERIZATION OF EBAN'S SPEECH PROVIDED SPRINGBOARD FOR MAJOR THEME IN PRESS REPORTAGE ON GENEVA CONFERENCE --ISMAIL FAHMY AS PLUCKY, ELOQUENT CENTRAL FIGURE AND DEFENDER OF THE ARAB POSITION AT GENEVA.

4. AL-GUMHURIYYA RED BANNER HEAD READS: "FAHMY: FULL WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS". AL-AHRAM STRESSED FAHMY'S IRONICAL AND SOMEWHAT SARCASTIC TONE IN HIS REBUTTAL TO POINTS IN EBAN'S SPEECH MENTIONED ABOVE. AL-AHRAM HIGHLIGHTED FAHMY'S TOUGH ATTITUDE AND INSISTENCE ON FULL WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES INCLUDING HERUSALEM. ALL PAPERS CARRIED FAHMY'S REMARKS THAT EBAN WAS SLIGHTING INTELLIGENCE OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND THAT EBAN SHOULD HAVE LEARNED LESSON THAT IT IS NOT ONLY ISRAEL THAT CAN USE MODERN WEAPONS. NO PAPERS CARRIED FAHMY'S REMAKRS ABOUT PALESTINIAN HAVING RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE TERRORIST ACTIONS OR POINTED OUT THAT FAHMY "REINTERATED FREQUENTLY"EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE IS PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT RECOGNIZING SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL STATES IN AREA AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

5. FAHMY WAS ALSO CENTRAL FIGURE IN ALL FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS.

6. ONLY FAHMY'S SPEECH WAS CARRIED FULL TEXT IN THREE MAJOR PAPERS. OTHER SPEECHES WERE SUMMARIZED WITH AN EYE TO EMPHASIZING PARTS IN COINCIDENCE WITH EGYPT'S POINT OF VIEW. AL-AHRAM HIGHLIGHTED KISSINGER AS SUGGESTING CEASE-FIRE COMMITMENT, DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 243: RIFAI AS REFUSING PARTIAL SETTLEMENT: EBAN AS REPEATING ISRAELI CLAIMS CONCERNING SECURE BORDERS AND HOLDING ARAB JERUSALEM:AND GROMYKO AS PREDICTING WAR MAY FLARE UP AGAIN AT ANY TIME.ALL PAPERS, HOWEVER, GAVE OBJECTIVE, IF SUBDUED TREATMENT TO GROMYKO'S REMARKS ABOUT ALL STATES, INCLUDING ISRAEL, HAVING RIGHT TO EXIST AND SOVIET UNION NOT BEING HOSTILE TO ISRAEL PER SE.

7. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT WAS TREATED OBJECTIVELY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES, SPEECHES, PEACE TALKS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO04183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973129/aaaaagby.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 6739
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, EG, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005